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Papers on the management of African library associations and services which were presented at the 1984 IFLA general conference include: (1) "The Contribution: The Zimbabwe Library Association" (Stanley M. Made); (2) "Libraries and Information Services in the Third World in Danger: The Case of Tanzania" (E. Kaungamno); (3) "Regional Library Cooperation for Development" (B. Y. Boadi, Nigeria); (4) "Voice of Kenya's Role in Collection, Preservation, and Dissemination of Kenya's Cultural Heritage" (M. Kabeberi, Kenya); (5) "The Organisation and Access of Kenya Official Publications and Their Contribution to National Development" (N. Kamau, Kenya); (6) "What Does the African World Expect from IFLA?" (Imn Kigongo, Bukenya); and (7) "The Establishment and Development of a Nationwide System of Libraries in Sierra Leone with Particular Reference to Public Libraries" (Gloria Dillsworth, Sierra Leone). (THC)

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IFLA ROUND TABLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

IFLA NAIROBI CONFERENCE 1984

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THE CONTRIBUTION THE ZIMBABWE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BY

S T A N L E Y M. M A D E

Chairman - Zimbabwe Library Association

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INTRODUCTION - THE IMPORTANCE OF A LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

A library association is an absolute necessity for any country wanting to see its library services maintained and developed eventually up to the best standards which obtain in other parts of the world.

If a library association once founded, is to grow in size and influence, if it is to develop such activities as conferences, seminars and workshops, if it is to generate current awareness of library progress through the publication of journals, reports and textbooks, if it is to be in a position to advise the Government on library matters, then it needs support, and that support must come from a number of directions. The most important element in any library association is the degree of support it receives from its personal members. In Zimbabwe the Library Association has now three branches and presently a total membership of 262 made up of 122 personal, 44 institutional and 96 schools members.

Every library association also needs a buoyant membership if it is to thrive and expand. This means that those who are already in membership must at all times encourage their colleagues to join. Newly joining members should be encouraged from the outset by being told that their services will be needed, either as incipient chairmen, secretaries, treasurers, committee members or editors, or even as contributors to the professional journal, conferences and meetings. From time to time complaints are heard about what the library association is doing for members. What really matters is not what the member is getting out of the association, but what he is putting into it.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ZIMBABWE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

In regard to the history of the Zimbabwe Library Association there have really been four successive associations, although, and this is to be emphasized, the policies have been consistent throughout.

Back in 1947 there were only three or four qualified librarians in the country and it was perhaps rather daring to form an Association. The object was to enlist the support of the people who, though not librarians, could help in promoting the creation and development of an integrated library service - 37 years later, due to the acute awareness of the present Government in such matters, it is nearly there!

Thus, in 1947, was formed the Central African Branch of the South African Library Association in Britain. At first we looked to the Library Association in Britain, which indeed gave some help, but overseas branches were not within their horizons. This initial organization rather lapsed into inactivity as it seemed to be making very little progress and then in 1959 the surviving members made a new start with the Library Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Two years later the constitution was amended to allow for the formation of branches - including a very promising one in what was then Northern Rhodesia. So during the days of the Federation the Association covered the same geographical area as that ill-fated project. In February 1964, a few weeks after the end of the Federation the Association changed its name to the Library Association of Central Africa with the hope that it would continue to serve the needs of members in the three territories. However, members in Zambia withdrew to form the Zambia Library Association at the beginning of 1967 and the remainder reconstituted as the Rhodesia Library Association, to become the Zimbabwe Library Association in 1980.

ASSOCIATION'S CONTRIBUTIONS

It is not my purpose to single out names but it is fair to say that the continuity, life and strength of purpose of the Association has always depended upon a hard core of members, changing from time to time, but with the power to initiate ideas and win the support of the majority. That hard core is, of course, the Council of the Association.

It is now worth looking at what has been achieved over the years. The Associations Constitution sets out five objects - No. 4 is, to quote "To stimulate an awareness among Central and Local Government bodies of their responsibility in providing adequate library services." This has been the Association's main thrust; from the initial survey by Douglas Varley, in 1950 with the help of the Carnegie Corporation, onwards through a succession of committees, representations, interviews with Ministers and Ministries, other surveys, all with the same object.

An outstanding document was the evidence submitted to the Greenfield Commission of inquiry into library services in 1970 which, issued as a special supplement to the "Rhodesian Librarian" ran to over 100 pages of the journal. In recent days has been the assistance given to the responsible Ministry in the formulation of the National Library and Documentation Service with the Association being well represented on the various planning committees.

Of particular note is the submission of the Zimbabwe Library Association to the British Council asking for assistance in the establishment of the National Library Service and the training of professional librarians in Zimbabwe. It proposed the sponsoring of a person or a nominee of the Government who would:

1. Consider the present state of library services within Zimbabwe and their future financing and development, having regard to the cultural, social, economic and technical needs of the country, its individual citizens and in particular the public libraries.
2. Review past investigations of a similar nature and recommendations resulting therefrom.
3. Take evidence on desirable standards of library provision and services and on such other matters as the person might deem necessary.
4. Make such recommendations on these matters as the person might deem desirable.

The request resulted in the visit by W. Alison, Director of Libraries, City of Glasgow District Council. He produced a report to the British Council which was adopted by the Government of Zimbabwe. On October 28th, 1981 the National Library and Documentation Council was inaugurated to establish the National Library and Documentation Service.

A couple of other subsequent reports were made, based on the Alison Report. The Report of the Swedish Library Mission to Zimbabwe in January 1982 acknowledged the Ministry of Education & Culture for having actively supported the request, at independence, by the Zimbabwe Library Association for experts to assist in the formulation of the project for the establishment of a National Library & Documentation Service. The Swedish Mission's purpose was to assist in drawing concrete proposals for the establishment of the NLDS and to make proposals for a Training Scheme.

Another more specific report was made from yet another visit to Harare, from 20th to 30th November 1982 by Edward Dudley. Dudley's task was to draw up proposals for training librarians who would assume a wide range of responsibilities, including that of overall management in the projected culture houses throughout the country.

The Association has in fact been a constant pressure group towards the enhancement of library services for all.

The second of the objects set out in the Constitution is the development of libraries and documentary information services. Clearly this links with the pressure group activities, but there is more. One may instance the interest in school libraries, beginning with various surveys in 1968, and progressing to the value of school librarians and their training. The school librarian section was established in 1976 and its work may be regarded as outstanding.

Education in librarianship is another objective - No. 5 in the Constitution - "To promote whatever may tend to the improvement of the position and qualifications of librarians." Again the Association has been

active with assistance in the staffing and organization of courses. There have been explorations to see if a library school was viable and much discussion with the University and the Ministry of Education has taken place.

Yet another objective is to unite people engaged in library and documentary information work. Here the Annual Conference has been, naturally, the highlight of the year, when the various branches and sections get together.

It is to be noted that this year was the 24th Conference, so next year will mark a quarter of a century of them - a marked achievement in itself. Their value in professional discussion and social opportunities needs no emphasis.

Our journal, "Zimbabwe Librarian," dates from No. 1 of volume 1 in January 1969 and with one or two stutters perhaps, it has been continuous. The keynote article in this first issue, by the way, was entitled "African literature and the possibility of opening a rural library service in Rhodesia," by Mr. Mupawaenda, still a live subject. Great credit is due to the successive editors in preserving the journal's value and usefulness here and outside our borders.

There are many other facets that might be mentioned: indeed a history of the Association would be a history of librarianship in Zimbabwe, a subject which deserves fuller treatment at some other time.

To sum up, the greatest work of the Association has been

(a) To bring librarians together for the benefit of the community.
(b) To act as a pressure group.
(c) To achieve recognition of librarianship as a well-knit profession.

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LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE THIRD WORLD IN DANGER: THE CASE OF TANZANIA

by

E. . KAUNGAMNO, Director of Tanzania Library Services

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LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE THIRD WORLD IN DANGER - THE CASE OF TANZANIA.

by

E. E. KAUNGAMNO, Director, Tanzania Library Services

> "Among African countries Tanzania has been a pioneer in making the development of Man by meeting his basic needs, the central theme of its development strategy. Much before the adoption and amplification of a basic needs strategy for development by the ILO's World Employment Conferences in 1976, the Government of Tanzania had given the concept of basic needs a prime place in its development philosophy and strategy. Presenting the Arusha Declaration in 1967, President Nyerere had emphasized that the purpose of all social, economic and political activity must be Man." This quotation is from a Preface to a publication by ILO entitled Basic Needs in Danger; A Basic Needs Oriented Development Strategy for Tanzania."[1]

The education sector is among those sectors that have been given top priority. So are libraries. Indeed in his Foreword to Books Build Nations, President Nyerere has said that "for poor nations a library service is vital. To develop an educational system and to say you cannot afford a National Library Service is not very sensible."[2]

However, "due to its present economic crisis exacerbated by both internal and external factors, Tanzania is at an important turning point. There is a real danger of its cherished policies and goals to meet the basic needs of its people being pushed to the wayside. The threat consists in major cuts in Government expenditure and reduced food production. In so far as basic needs are concerned the country is thus at cross-roads."[3] Let us now look at education and libraries.

A. Achievement in education

In 1977 Tanzania Government invited the ILO's Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa (JASPA) to make assessment of the country's employment and unemployment situation. One of the sectors which JASPA's 1977 Employment Advisory Mission examined was education. The Mission had this to say:

"From the point of view of a development strategy for basic needs satisfaction, Tanzania's achievements in the education sector have been noteworthy. Through a concerted effort in the education drive, illiteracy has been reduced from 70 percent to 21 percent during the last decade. With the introduction of universal primary education, the enrolment in primary schools has increased significantly and in 1981 its was about 8.5 times higher than at the time of independence in 1961, 3.54 million against 0.417 million. Secondary education enrolment, during the same period increased 4.6 times, from 14,000 to 65,000."[4]

According to the results of the 1983 National Adult Education Literacy Examination announced by the Minister of Education, Ndugu J. Makweta, Tanzania illiteracy rate had been reduced from 21 percent in 1983 to 15% in 1983, raising the literacy rate to 85 - the highest in Africa.

B. Libraries

In 1962 the Tanzania Government decided to introduce into Parliament a bill to establish a National Library Service. This was only one year after the country attained independence. In anticipation of this, a decision was made to appoint from Britain a Director of Library Services. This was, in part, an implementation of the Hockey Report on the Development of Library Services in East Africa which was accepted in 1961. The Act to establish the Tanganyika Library Services Board received the President's assent on 11th July, 1963 and came into operation on 1st November with the appointment of a Chairman and members of the Board. The Board formally assumed productivity for library services in the country on 1st April, 1964. A few years later, the expatriate Director, Mr. E. M. Broome, had this to say about the Government and its enthusiasm in establishing a nation-wide service:

"Tanganyika (as it was then called) is way ahead of the other East African countries in coordinating existing library facilities and in establishing a library service for the people. Since 1961, the year of independence, an impressive series of 'firsts' has been established: Tanganyika was the first country to accept the Hockey Report; first to pass the necessary legislation to establish a Library Board; first to find a considerable capital sum for the erection of a new building in Dar es Salaam; and the first to appoint a Director of Library Services."[5]

1. Achievements

When President Nyerere opened the National Centra Library in 1967 he said that it was like the hub of the wheel from which spokes reached out to towns and villages throughout mainland Tanzania. Today there are altogether 14 regional libraries, and 6 district libraries. In addition, there are rural library services provided in some regions by mobile libraries, a postal library service for places without library, facilities, the Bookbox Exchange Service for various institutions and a School Library Service including a School Mobile Library Service.

(i) Manpower

Significant achievement has also been made in manpower development and training. When the library services started in 1963 there was no single Tanzanian librarian. A training programme was soon started by the Board for Tanzanians to pursue courses in librarianship in East African and abroad. Today there are over 60 librarians. While Tanzanians were being trained, the Board used the services of expatriate librarians from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Scandinavian countries.

With the phasing out of foreign experts, local librarians assumed the responsibility of developing and running the service. To date all posts have been localized. With effect from 1973 the Board established a staff development programme for post-graduate training or for the conversion of the A.L.A's (Associate of the Library Association) into MLS (Master of Library Science/Studies) degrees. The staff on this programme have been trained to fill vacancies which required specialization, e.g., documentation, book production, adult education, children's library services, etc. The programme also prepares them to occupy higher and more responsible jobs.

The training of sub-professionals (paraprofessionale) has also made great headway. Formerly library assistants were trained at the East African School of Librarianship, Makerere University, Uganda. The National Certificate Course for Library Assistants was started and is being run by the Tanzania Library Services Board. With an average annual intake of about 40 students over 300 certificate holders had been produced by 1983. The course is catering for the training needs of ministries, parastatals, and other organizations in the country. By 1983 Tanzania did not have a Library School for training professionals. However, plans are under way to establish the Library School at the University of Dar es Salaam.

(ii) Legislation

In order to move with times, the Tanzania Library Services Board found it necessary to review library legislation. Tanganyika Library Services Act 2903, like those of Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Kenya, to mention only a few countries, was very much influenced by the Ghana Library Ordinance of 1950. The functions of the Board as stipulated by the 1963 Library Act were very general and were mainly geared to the provision of traditional or conventional library services. In 1975, therefore, a new Act was enacted.

It was felt that the functions should be specific and in line with modern trends in librarianship and information work. Thus as pointed out earlier, apart from providing conventional library services, the Board, according to the 1975 Act, is entrusted, among other things with the planning, establishment and coordination of library and documentation services in the country.

With the enactment of the 1975 Library Act, the Board is also engaged in the publication of books particularly those for the Adult Education programme. A Printing Unit has been established to cater for the printing of library materials (eg. stationery, etc,) On completion of the project, the Unit will be opened commercially to enable the Board to earn some revenue to supplement its library budget.

(iii) National Bibliographic Agency and Bibliographic Control

The Tanzania Library Services Board has continued with its responsibility for ensuring that there is effective national bibliographic control. The Board produces the Tanzania National Bibliography which is considered the major instrument in the improvement of national bibliographical control. A monthly publication of this bibliography ensures that the country's total publishing output is known. As such the document is of historical and archival importance as it reflects the changing pattern of a country's social literacy and economic growth. In order to have an efficient administrative structure for the national bibliographic control, a National Bibliographic Agency was established early in 1981. The National Bibliographic Agency has, as its primary function, the production of the Tanzania National Bibliography.

(iv) Promotion of publishing and the book industry

Since its establishment, the Agency is participating actively in the international numbering schemes. During the 1970s as you know a number of schemes at the international level were developed aimed at providing first, an efficient bibliographic tool for the control of particular categories of information material, and secondly, by making use of the bibliographic tool the establishment of an international file or data base made up of an accumulation of records. The Board has already joined the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and the International Serial Data System (ISDS) which should be very instrumental in the promotion of publishing and the book industry in Tanzania. The ISBN agency had by August 1983, distributed ISBNs to 26 Tanzania publishers. Tanzania became the 6th country in Africa to join the ISBN system, the other countries being Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The other international numbering scheme which has been introduced in Tanzania is the International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN). With the establishment of the Serial Centre in 1982, Tanzania was incorporated into the International Serial Data System (ISDS) and the National Central Library became the ISDS national centre. Under the ISDS system, serials produced in Tanzania are now supplied with International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN) which will facilitate the identification of all serials published in Tanzania. By August 1983, the National Bibliographic Agency had already identified sixty serial publications for allocation of ISSNs.

(v) Documentation

The Tanzania National Documentation Centre (TANDOC) was established in 1976 to stimulate rapid growth in key sectors of the economy and to provide information services to specialists users in Agriculture, Industry, Education and Appropriate technology.

Using national and international publications and information services, TANDOC provides information and document retrieval, photocopying and document delivery services; current awareness and referral services connecting clients to specialists and institutions worldwide. TANDOC also prepares bibliographies and abstracts of literature in technical areas and in subject areas specified by clients. Among useful publications prepared for specialists include Industrial Abstracts for Tanzania, Educational Abstracts for Tanzania and Agricultural Abstracts for Tanzania.

2. Problems

From the time the Tanzania Library Services Board was founded it has been pre-occupied with the provision of library services throughout the country in both urban and rural areas. This has been no small task. Tanzania is a poor country with over 90% of its population sparsely distributed in rural areas where communications and other social amenities are poor. Tanzania is also a very big country. The area is 945,203 sq. km. It is equal in land area to Italy, France, Holland and Belgium combined or one-tenth of the area of the United States. As pointed out ealier there are libraries in only 14 major towns of the regions; 6 more regional libraries have still to be built.

Provision of library services to rural areas is very important because the majority of the people live in villages. However one of the biggest problems confronting Tanzania Library Service is the provision of suitable reading material for rural people. Relevant follow-up reading material is essential especially for new literates so that they do not relapse into illiteracy. In other words, after literacy has been achieved what next? There is a big shortage of suitable reading material particularly in Kiswahili, the national and official language.

However it is of no use to produce follow-up literature unless it can be got into the readers hands and provided in sufficient numbers. It has to be transported and distributed over a wide area of scattered villages linked by poor communications. It has to be made free of charge, or at any rate at a nominal price which is unlikely to bear any relation to the cost of production and distribution. One way of providing books to rural areas has been through bookmobiles. However it has not been possible to acquire enough vehicles to cover the rural areas adequately and the few bookmobiles in existence have had frequent breakdown resulting in exorbitant maintenance costs and disruption of services.

Related to the problem of adequate provision of reading materials to readers is the issue of promotion of reading habit. When one talks about the reading habit one has to consider at least two factors - the ability to read and the facility to read. The ability to read presupposes the establishment of a system of education which provides literacy to all. The facility to read implies, among other things, the establishment of a network of libraries within the reach of every citizen.

But knowing how to read is one thing. Maintaining a reading habit is another. One of the problems facing Tansania Library Service is the fact/not many people use libraries. The largest /that group of users are children [illegible] secondary school students. The little use of libraries is part of a major and complex problem. The fact to be borne in mind is that lasting reading habits are formed at a young age when the mind is most impressionable. Actually, every home and school should provide facilities for reading to children at a young age. Once the reading habit is established at the kindergarten stage, it is carried through the rest of one's life. The promotion of children's books and childrens magazines should, therefore, be given special attention.

The reading habit cannot be easily maintained unless government plays an active role in promoting it. Here I am emphasizing the role of government as promoter of books. In order to be useful, books must respond to actual needs and interests of the readers. Book publishing is a complex industry the development of whose infrastructure depends upon government support in a variety of ways. Government can help the book industry by identifying and encouraging creative writing, ensuring adequate supply of essential materials from indigenous sources or from abroad, like paper, printing and binding machinery, organizing training courses and seminars for books personnel to keep the industry abreast of the latest developments in the skills and techniques of book production and distribution, establishing a network of libraries, reducing postal rates of books to promote their widest circulations, providing financial incentives like special tax dispensation and credit facilities to the book industry, making people bookminded through regular exhibitions, undertaking research and surveys on a national level relation to various aspects of publishing and marketing of books, and making the results available to the industry and the national planners so that book production and distribution are integrated with national development plans and by guaranteeing the freedom to read with, of course, with due regard to copyright and national interests. In sum, unless there is a healthy national book industry, libraries are almost helpless as far as the acquisition of books is concerned. Libraries are on the receiving end and, if anything, they are only purveyors of books.

3. The Book situation in Tanzania

Local publishing in Tanzania is still in its infancy. For instance the 1970 Tanzania National Bibliography (TNB) listed 264 items, 109 books and 155 pamphlets. The 1971 TNB listed 400 items. The 1972 TNB listed 198 titles. Of these 106 were in Kiswahili, 84 in English and the rest in other languages, mainly local. The poor book production situation in Tanzania is not unique as many African countries suffer from this perennial problem.

For example the Report of the Meeting of Experts on Book Development in Africa convened in Accra in 1968, noted that annual book production in the region in 1965/66 on the basis of reports from 34 countries was 1310 titles and pamphlets. This amounted to six titles per million inhabitants. An examination of production figures pointed out the wide disparity in national publishing development of the 34 countries of the region.

The low output of books in Tanzania is one of the Party's and Government's greatest areas of concern. At the TANU (now CCM) Party Biennual Conference held in 1975, delegates vehemently urged the authorities concerned to accord book production top priority. This stems from the fact that the country is seriously pursuing the adult education programme particularly the functional literacy drive, aimed at educating adults directly involved in nation building and productive enterprises in order to raise the economic and cultural level of workers and peasants. In 1970 when President Nyerere launched the national literacy campaign, statistics showed that out of 23 million inhabitants, 6 million were aged below 15 years and out of the remaining 7 million adults about 1.7 were literate and about 5.3 million illiterate. By 1981, illiteracy had dropped to 21% as compared to 67% in 1969. Books are needed in large numbers to cope with the functional literacy campaign and universal primary education. A plentiful supply of books is also needed for teachers' handbooks and manuals. The country also needs large output of suitable books for secondary, university and vocational education. Most of the books imported are not adapted to African needs. Some of locally produced books are, in many cases, originally foreign books published by African branches of foreign publishing houses. Although these foreign publishers have tried to adapt their books to African needs, it must be stated that neither imports nor adaptation can fully satisfy African requirements.

The dimension of the critical situation facing the book industry is even more aggravated by the following factors:

(i) Writers or authors mostly write stories and are generally inexperienced. Those who manage to produce good manuscripts tend to send them outside Tanzania because of lack of local publishing and printing facilities and for want of quality publications and international fame.

(ii) Indigenous commercial publishing facilities are inadequate and the few that appear viable are branches of foreign-based firms.

(iii) Printing firms do not have up-to-date machinery mainly because of scarcity of foreign currency, but where there is modern equipment it is underutilized because of shortage or lack of raw materials.

(iv) Book distribution is poor.

Currently the general view in Tanzania is that the country needs something of a "book revolution" in order to handle the acute shortage of books. For the revolution to be effective it must, among other things, have an impact on the local culture and reduce the outflow of foreign exchange. Initially publishing and printing will have to put less stress on quality and the profit motive and the Government may have to subsidise the book industry for a massive supply of books for national educational programmes and libraries. It is evident that the establishment of something like a National Book Development Council is very much overdue. Against this background, it is easy to visualize the problems facing Tanzania Library Service in its effort to acquire books.

Probably the most crucial problem facing libraries in Tanzania is lack of foreign exchange. As pointed out earlier the local book industry leaves much to be desired and the absolute dependence on imports of books undermines the very existence of libraries. Libraries cannot keep their books up to date. The situation has been worsened by inflationary prices all over the world and there is difficulty in getting sufficient number of suitable books.

Lack of foreign exchange has also been resulted in staffing problems. It is no longer possible now to send trainee librarians abroad for training Scholarship are difficult to come by. With the expansion of the library service it is very difficult to ensure that the minimum professional staffing standards are met. The establishment of a Library School at the University of Dar es Salaam is therefore awaited with great anxiety.

C. Future prospects

As pointed out earlier, although the Tanzania Library Services Board ought to be proud of having built a number of libraries in the country, many more area still do not have library facilities. The Board has prepared a long term strategy for the development of all types of libraries in Tanzania. In May 1983 a National Library Policy was produced and submitted to the Government for consideration. The main aims of the Library Policy are:

(i) To lay down principles and guidelines for a new approach in the development of all libraries in the country.

(ii) To ensure that all sectors in Government and parastatal organisations are adequately provided with library facilities.

(iii) To ensure that all public institutions establish their own libraries and develop them.

(iv) To expedite development in the library sector by ensuring that each library fulfils its national responsibilities.

(v) To make full use of the various library resources in the country through cooperation and coordination.

(vi) To help bring about rapid development in the country by disseminating up-to-date and relevant information, to decision makers, administrators and researchers in key sectors in Government and parastatal organisations.

The need for a National Library Policy has been felt for a long time. In a poor country such as Tanzania it is imperative that the library resources should coordinated for maximum use by every citizen regardless of where he/she is.

This is even more crucial now that there is a tight squeeze on library budgets. Funds allocated to the Tanzania Library Services Board come from the Central Government. The budget is inadequate for the development of libraries in the country unless financial help is also sought from Local Government. The Library Policy aims at involving city, municipal and town councils in the establishment, administration and development of libraries in their areas. It is the intention of the Library Policy to elevate the status of the Board so that it becomes the overall national body responsible for the library sector and that libraries play an important role in the national development of the country.

D. S.O.S.

The problems facing Tanzania and the Tanzania Library Services Board in particular are typical of many African countries:

(a) The shortage or lack of funds has meant that no library development in terms of establishment of new libraries and no purchase of new books and periodicals both locally and from other countries. Many libraries in Tanzania have not, for lack of foreign exchange, purchased books or subscribed to periodicals for several years now. This situation is bound to continue unless urgent corrective action is taken.

(b) The shortage of funds has brought the training and manpower development programmes virtually to a stand still as no scholarships, or very few of them, if any, have been set aside for professional library training to match with the country's needs.

(c) The shortage of funds means that libraries are not in a position to give a back up service to adult education programmes, especially functional literacy campaigns, leave alone millions of children and students pursuing education in various institutions in the country.

At this critical moment, when the economies of most African countries are in the doldrums, information, especially scientific and technological information, is vital in solving many of their problems. The usefulness of information as a development tool has been confirmed. In 1974, 135 countries meeting at the United Nations General Assembly, proclaimed the following as one of the principles of a New International Economic Order:

> "Giving to the developing countries access to the achievement of modern science and technology and promoting the transfer of technology and the creation of indigenous technology for the benefit of the developing countries in forms and in accordance with procedures which are suited to their economies."[6]

Developing countries need assistance from developed countries in order to revive and sustain the development of libraries. Material, physical and financial help is badly needed now; otherwise efforts already taken to establish libraries during these years will have been wasted.

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Division: Regional activities

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Regional Library cooperation for development

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REGIONAL LIBRARY CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Regional co-operation is not a new concept in librarianship. However, regional co-operative programmes have not always been successful. This may be due to an insufficient appreciation of the essential elements that would enhance the successful implementation of the programmes. The elements are discussed in the context of developing countries, and plans for the mobilisation of the library and information resources for regional social and economic development and growth are suggested.

REGIONAL LIBRARY CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Regionalism has been defined (one of several definitions) as "Co-operation and integration among geographically proximate states which share a sense of their own inadequacy in dealing with problems of security and welfare."[1] Regionalism is, of course, not a new concept and most countries have long been involved in one form of regional grouping or another. In a way it was this sense of national inadequacy in "stimulating and assisting library development in Africa, and [in] achieving and adequate recognition for the library profession" that resulted in the formation of the West African Library Association (WALA) in 1954 following the Ibadan Seminar of 1953.[2] Similar considerations must have prompted the establishment of the East African Library Association in 1956.

Later events, the result of history and politics, have caused the disintegration of these two regional bodies. Other bodies have suffered identical fate. In West Africa, for instance, there were the West African Currency Board, the West African Airways Corporation, the West African Research Organisation etc which, like [illegible], linked the former British colonies of The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone together. The French colonies in the sub-region were also joined together in the Federation of French West Africa (Federation d'Afrique

occidentale francaise). The dissolution of these bodies notwithstanding, regionalism still remains a dynamic force in Africa as it is elsewhere. The establishment of the multi-purpose Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 1975 and other post-independence and functionally specific groupings such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), The West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), etc is ample evidence of the dramatic resurgence of interest in regional co-operative arrangements. The current efforts in East Africa to establish another regional organisation after the collapse of the East African Community is yet further evidence of the urge towards regionalism as a means of overcoming individual national inadequacies and in stimulating economic growth and development.

Like regionalism, development is a complex phenomenon which has been given different interpretations (and different ways of achieving it) by different students of the subject. However, one definition which seems appropriate for the purpose of this paper is that which sees development as "a social process of change through which a society which is under developed at the beginning of this process achieves, fundamentally through participative and creative efforts of its own people and mobilisation of resources at their disposal, the elimination of poverty, social injustice, exploitation, marginalisation, internal or external socio-political domination,

and a continuous unfolding of human personality through creative self-expression."[3] As it is implied in this definition, to achieve the ultimate objective of development, which is the provision for individual well-being and dignity, the available resources would have to be carefully mobilised and utilised. Information has been given almost universal acceptance as an important attribute to socio-economic development and is consequently increasingly being recognised as a vital component of this "social process of change." The human being is continually involved in the "information process." Individual members of the society need information of one kind or another for their daily activities, their own decision-making processes and for social communication, interaction and mobility. At the institutional level, managers and policy makers, planners, scientists and technicians, the different arms of the governmental machinery, etc need information at all stages in the planning and execution of their programmes. Access to the right information at the right time is therefore a pre-requisite for functional efficiency and for the evolution of an informed society. It is in effect information that holds the society together. It should go without saying, therefore, that the proper organisation and use of the available regional library and information resources through "Participative and creative efforts" should be seen as a necessary condition for the effective contribution of the resources to regional growth and development.

The participatory (or co-operative) mobilisation and use of the resources has become even more necessary in the face of rising costs and shrinking budgets and therefore the ever-increasing inability of any one nation, with its combined information resources and services, to satisfy the sum total of the national information requirements. Greater regional co-operation would be a concrete way of extending the range of resources and services and in achieving some measure of collective self-reliance. However, there are certain essential elements which must be observed for any co-operative venture (whether national or regional) to succeed. These have been enumerated by Bowden[4] as: "an appreciation of the need to co-operate; an acceptance of the responsibilities involved in co-operation; the tools with which to co-operate; the formal organisation within which to co-operate; and the basis, or national infrastructure - depending on the level of library development achieved - on which to co-operate." The lack of sufficient appreciation of these elements has significantly contributed to the failure of many co-operative ventures.

Appreciation of the need to co-operate should, of course, be accompanied by a willingness to co-operate. These actors (i.e. the appreciation and the willingness) would on the other hand, depend on an understanding of the complexity of the information provision problem and a conviction that part of the solution, at least, might be found in co-operative ventures. The interest may be generated through what Becker[5] has termed "social engineering" - or getting people to

appreciate the need for co-operation and to participate effectively; and also sustaining their interest through motivation. Essentially, "social engineering" involves making inroads into encrusted attitudes which, like tradition, tend to die hard. Anderla[6] has rightly remarked (in connection with the formulation of co-operative arrangements) that ".... perhaps the arrangements that are the hardest to reach concern matters of principle and basic concepts which are however sometimes obscured by professional or personal preferences ... Better mutual understanding and greater tolerance on all sides are good recipes we must apply again and again until differences of opinion are sufficiently narrowed down."

Initial hesitancy on the part of prospective participants in co-operative projects should perhaps not be too unexpected (and could indeed be justified) because apprehension about a new venture is a natural and an understandable instinct. And in such ventures when old, entrenched allegiances and practices may have to be altered, and when participation could mean the observation of new sets of rules and regulations, the apprehension may not be entirely unfounded. "Social engineering" may help in removing these attitudinal barriers and in forging "mutual understanding and greater tolerance" but proof of benefit from participation could well be the best motivator.

A co-operative venture of this nature is usually an association of a heterogeneous group of library and information centres with basically different objectives, and belonging to different organisational set-ups. It would therefore need a formal

organisation to chart the course of the venture through the complexity of management problems characteristic of such groupings if stated aims and objectives are to be achieved. The organisation would provide for fiscal responsibility, planning and policy formation. It is worth stressing that despite these provisions, the survival of the co-operative venture would depend on an acceptance of participatory responsibilities by all involved and a strong commitment to its cause.

The ability of the developing countries to undertake such co-operative mobilisation and use of library and information resources has often been questioned. Such scepticism is usually based on the notion that some of the developing countries may not have reached the "take off" point or they may not have attained a minimal infrastructural level to allow for meaningful participation in the schemes. The observation may be valid but its validity has limited application - and that is, when "library co-operation" or "resource sharing" as a concept is given the narrow interpretation of the joint use of resources that are already in existence. This view of the concept may be tenable in the developed countries where, by and large, the resources are in existence and are available in considerable quantity. In the developing countries, however, the reverse is the norm. The resources are generally scanty and the supporting services are comparatively weak. So while the main concern of the developed countries may lie in the development of schemes

for the co-operative use of the available resources, the developing countries have to adopt different strategies in the interpretation and application of the concept. To them it should be looked at in the wider context of co-operative resource building and sharing. These two aspects should be considered together to make the concept meaningful to them. To the developing countries "library and information resource" should therefore mean "any and all the materials, functions and services which constitute a modern library system."[7] In other words in addition to the document resources, the processes involved in the provision of the services, the equipment, staff, organisation, accommodation, finance, etc should all be considered as part of the total library resource, and programmes for the co-operative building and sharing of the resource should take all these factors into consideration.

All these areas of activity lend themselves to co-operation at both the national and regional levels although the degree of amenability and the mode of planning and execution would differ from one to the other. For regional co-operation in any of these activities to succeed, however, co-operation in that activity must be well-established at the national level. As Gelfand[8] has observed, "when library co-operation is firmly and widely established on a national level, international co-operation will follow." At both levels of co-operation one essential pre-requisite is dependable knowledge, through surveys, of the existing resources in the area of activity.

From the results of the surveys it would be possible to identify the strengths and weaknesses within the framework of the co-operative scheme as well as its problems and opportunities. A rational development programme could then be planned detailing goals and objectives, modes of operation, areas of priority concern, etc. The programme could then be phased as would be considered expedient.

An area of co-operative activity which has attracted much attention both in the professional literature and in actual practice, is document resources - their acquisition, processing, storage and use. This area seems to be the obvious point of departure in library co-operation since the acquisition and handling of document resources are the most expensive and the most visible aspects in the information provision process. It is also evident from both the literature and the experience that (as Bowden puts it) "the librarianship of developing countries is scattered with tombstones as memorials to the co-operative projects that died or of the corpses that barely cling to life."[9] This is a pathetic yet accurate expose of the co-operative movement in librarianship in developing countries. This situation has arisen mainly because of the fact that most of the co-operative projects have been started without sufficient regard to the essential elements that would enhance their viability. The organisational framework within which these projects would operate is a typical case in point. In Nigeria, for instance, there is a universities' scheme for the acquisition of African government publications.

Reportedly, it has not lived to expectations and has not made much significant impact on the collection development of the participating libraries.[10] This may not be unconnected with the fact that the scheme is run by a "Committee" which has no permanent administrative arrangement to monitor the implementation of the programme. Through such imprecise arrangements many other co-operative schemes in the West African sub-region (as also in other places) continue to have a nominal and an unproductive existence.

The need for a well-constituted organisational framework for co-operative acquisition schemes would be appreciated better if it is re-called that the much talked-about and successful Scandia Plan, for instance, had an initial ten-year unsettled existence principally because it lacked a strong administrative machinery to plan and implement the scheme. It even had no headquarters and there was no proper mechanism to check whether or not participants were keeping to their obligations. There had been a lot of good-will and enthusiasm but these alone had not been sufficient to operate the scheme successfully. It was not until these administrative shortcomings had been corrected that the scheme began to make good progress and to show beneficial results. From the Scandia Plan experience it becomes apparent that committed participation and a well-planned system of control and monitoring could constitute a good recipe for a successful co-operative acquisition scheme. For developing countries such control and monitoring (and the control and monitoring of other co-operative projects) could best be provided at the national level by a national

co-ordinating body (in the spirit of the General Information Programme of Unesco and) with the requisite legal, financial and administrative backing to allocate areas of responsibility and also to ensure that obligations are met. Participation in regional programmes, spearheaded by the national co-ordinating bodies, would then begin to have some meaning.

For the majority of the developing countries national arrangements for the co-operative acquisition of document resources would of necessity have to differ from regional arrangements. The various practised forms of subject specialisation and joint purchase schemes, for instance, would be unrealistic at the regional level because of poor communications and a plethora of other inhibitory factors. However, each participating country could assume the responsibility of ensuring the comprehensive collection of the national literary output especially such "difficult" documents as government publications, theses and dissertations) and making requested items or their surrogates available for loan through well-established national inter-library loan channels. The comprehensive collection of national literary output would, of course, mean the existence of effective national legal deposit arrangements and active national bibliographic centres which issue national bibliographies regularly and timely. These national bibliographies would offer a permutation of use including the compilation of special national and regional bibliograhpies.

Co-operative acquisition schemes at both the national and regional levels could also be beneficially supplemented with gift and exchange arrangements. Properly planned, gifts and exchanges can contribute enormously to the enrichment of the resources of a library. The fundamental principle underlying the concept of gifts and exchanges tallies with the concept of the collaborative development of document resources which is that no library (and for that matter no country) however well-endowed it might appear to be, can claim self-sufficiency in the acquisition of materials. Working on the impossible assumption of unlimited financial resources, at least one crucial factor would obviate any aspirations towards self-sufficiency and, that is publications that cannot be acquired through the normal trade channels. Notable in this respect are most government publications and publications of associations, societies, etc. Additionally, other factors like the sheer quantity of published information, scarcity of funds and, in a growing number of instances, particularly in the developing countries, currency restrictions and similar constraints raise the premium on gifts and exchanges as useful supplements to an acquisition programme.

In this co-operative activity co-ordination at the national level would also enhance co-operation at the regional level. The co-ordination of exchange materials has long been advocated by the Brussels and Paris Conventions of 1886 and 1958 respectively. The exchange arrangements would not necessarily have to be centralised. Each individual library would enter into its

own arrangements but each country would have a national referral centre. This role could be played by the national library whose responsibility it would be to co-ordinate the exchange programmes by keeping records of all exchange arrangements, publishing data on exchanges, and providing information and advice so as to eliminate waste and maximise the usefulness of the exchange arrangements. The national referral centres would also be the national bibliographical centres for exchanges and would compile and circulate lists of available exchange material. Like the Universal Serials and Book Exchange, the Gift and Exchange Section of the British Library Lending Division (and its predecessor the British National Book Centre) the national referral centres would operate as clearing-houses for information about exchange material (or the materials themselves) on national, regional or even international bases. The unco-ordinated nature of gift and exchange programmes in most develpoing countries and the thought that there could be useful duplicate or surplus material lying idle or not properly utilised makes one wonder at this waste in these hard times.

A natural sequel to the acquisition of document resources is their bibliographical organisation. Under this heading comes a wide range of activities which permit intellectual and physical access to the document resources. The main concern here, however, will be with the cataloguing of the document resources for which there is a promise for both national and regional co-operation. Centralised or co-operative cataloguing has its inherent advantages and disadvantages. One of the most important advantages it offers, in terms of inter-library

co-operation (and in the wider context of Universal Bibliographic Control) is the opportunity it offers for the standardisation of the bibliographical record. The compilation and use of the tools (e.g. union lists and catalogues, national and regional bibliographies, etc) for the various co-operative schemes would be facilitated by the adoption of common methods of bibliograhpic description. Some of the disadvantages advanced against centralised cataloguing, on the other hand, are the delays usually associated with centralised processes, possible commission (and therefore the perpetuation) of errors in cataloguing, and also the unsuitability of centralised cataloguing to local needs. These are all valid arguments, particularly, the last. The question of local or custom cataloguing must be solved before centralised cataloguing can be beneficial. A step towards the solution would be the acceptance of a format that would meet the basic requirements of all participating libraries.

These basic requirements could be arrived at through the wide adoption of such regulating devices as the ISBNs, ISSNs and AACR2. While their adoption would achieve the immediate benefit of uniformity in bibliographic description, their in-built quality for use in both manual and automated systems would ensure the ultimate orderly transformation from the manual to the automated mode of operation. And for automated systems the advent of Machine Readable Cataloguing (MARC) has increased the chances for co-operative cataloguing. Although because of their circumstances the developing countries may not be ready yet for the large-scale use of MARC, that should not prevent them from taking advantage of the benefits of

automation in co-operative projects even now. Indeed Huck-Tee Lim[11] gives an interesting account of the use of MARC in Malaysia. Dubbed MALMARC, it is a co-operative scheme among the five Malaysian university libraries and the National Library of Malaysia. Massil's[12] three-level progressive use of automated processing could be found practicable by most developing countries. Level one would entail reliance on external services with the minimum of interaction on the part of the library. This level represents the simplest use of automation. Libraries would request data from an external service (for example OCLC, BLCMP, or the British Library's LOCAS) by listing the ISBN's or Library of Congress (LC) card numbers of books acquired. The agency would be informed of local requirements in terms of catalogues and the libraries would receive a full card service on a subscription basis. The cards, in the MARC format, could be used by the libraries with a minimum of alteration. At the second level, libraries would again request data from an agency using ISBNs or LC card numbers. However, the requests would this time be key-punched locally and sent on tape to the agency for processing. The agency would send the results (also on tape) back to the libraries for processing and maintenance on a local computer. The advantage in this arrangement is that it would allow records needed to be obtained and manipulated locally while the burden of full data maintenance would be left to the agency. The third level, the ultimate stage in the use of automation, would entail a continuous access to a number of national data banks or the acquisition of the MARC backfile en bloc and a subscription to the current exchange tapes. It would also demand the expertise and infrastructural development

which most of the developing countries lack at the moment. However, levels one and two of MARC use are within the capabilities of most developing countries (many of whom have access to computers and the requisite personnel) and could be used in national and regional co-operative cataloguing programmes. Or like the five Malaysian university libraries and the National Library of Malaysia in the MALMARC system the tapes could initially be used co-operatively by libraries with identical interests and could later be extended to other user groups as may be found practicable. The tapes could also be used as part of a co-operative acquisition programme. In all cases there would have to be an appropriately equipped body to provide national, regional or group co-ordination.

The undeveloped nature of local publishing industries in the developing countries has continued to make these countries almost totally dependent on the developed world for their published sources of information. The estimates are that currently about 90% of all books and serials used in the developing countries are obtained from Europe and America. It would mean that the developing countries would score considerably high "hit rates" in the use of the MARC tapes. Local, and other documents not covered by the tapes would be catalogued centrally using an agreed format.

Document resources that have been co-operatively acquired and processed must, of course, be made accessible to members. An efficient inter-library lending arrangement is therefore a sine qua non for co-operation in the building and sharing

of document resources. Indeed it gives practical meaning to the concept. However, there are certain conditions which must prevail to allow for efficent inter-library lending whether it is at the national, regional or international level. With regard to regional (or international) lending it would be appropriate to re-echo Nortier's[13] statement that "A country where the internal lending system works well is also the one which will best meet request from abroad. There will be no really appreciable improvement at the international level so long as inter-library loans are not better organised within each country."

Very often the developing countries have no inter-library lending "systems" to talk of. Some amount of inter-library lending takes place among the libraries but it lacks proper co-ordination and is usally conducted on an informal, ad hoc basis. Most of them lack current locational devices or the "navigational guides" to the document resources (the union lists and union catalogues etc) without which inter-library lending cannot be properly organised. Because of this fact and again because there are usually no recognised central agencies for the co-ordination of the loan arrangements, libraries would merely guess the probably location of needed items and direct requests there. Invariably this leads to the few identifiable libraries being over-burdened with requests. The availability of current locational devices and the establishment of central agencies could help to improve the situation considerably.

The central agency, whose role could be performed by the national library, would essentially be a referral centre concerned with the promotion of conditions which would facilitate an efficient inter-library lending scheme at the national, and regional or international levels. The referral role of the central agency means that inter-library lending, especially at the national level, will not necessarily be centralised. It should be possible for a library to request an item directly if its location is known, and for the lending library to send it to the requesting library without the intervention of the central agency. However the borrowing and lending systems should be such that the central agency would be notified of loans not transacted through them. For regional or international loans, some amount of centralisation would be required to ensure that locally available items were not requested from abroad and also to direct in-coming requests to the appropriate local sources. One of the important functions of the central agency, in this regard, would be the compilation and regular up-dating of the necessary locational devices to enable it to perform its location and direction functions efficiently. Other functions would be concerned with the formulation of codes and regulations and the implementation of such measures as would promote the smooth running of the scheme.

Attempts at inter-library lending have often been frustrated by the general lack of reprographic facilities and the perennial problem of poor communication and delivery systems.

The presence on the market of relatively simple, inexpensive but efficient reprographic equipment is increasing the ability of libraries to send surrogates of items the originals of which it would not be possible, or indeed advisable, to send on inter-library loans. This accessibility, slow but steady, is certain to have a positive effect on inter-library lending arrangements. With respect to the poor communication and delivery systems, some of the governments in the developing countries (for example those in the West African sub-region) have plans for the improvement of the services. But such plans are essentially long-term considerations with no immediate solutions to the pressing problems of the moment. In the meantime specific short-term plans would also be needed. Some of the solutions, like the shuttle or courier service, have been employed successfully even in the developed countries such as the United States of America, Canada and Great Britain, to supplement their already quite reliable national postal services. In the West African sub-region the courier service has been tried with some degree of success in Nigeria and its use has been proposed in Ghana. The encouragement and wide-spread use of this supplementary service as well as such supplementary tele-communication devices as telex and radio-telephones would help in improving inter-library communication.

The attention has so far been concentrated on what may be called the mechanics of library co-operation. There are other essential pre-conditions for the successful operation of the co-operative schemes. One such important pre-condition

is the availability of trained personnel. The dearth of suitably trained staff is one of the features common to most library and information services in the developing countries. To solve the problem library schools, both national and regional, have been established. In the West African sub-region, for instance, in addition to the various national library schools, the Ecole des Bibliothecaires, Archivistes et Documentalistes in Dakar (Senegal) has been serving as a regional training centre for librarians, archivists and documentalists from the French-speaking African countries, and the Department of Library and Archival Studies of the University of Ghana has been offering similar services for archivists from English-speaking African countries. The East African sub-region has also had its experience of a regional library school. The problem of the shortage of manpower however still persists and that would suggest that better manpower planning, based on a much closer study of national and regional needs and a tailoring of the educational programmes to meet those requirements, would be needed. In addition to the formal education programmes, informal programmes, like staff exchange and visiting programmes, offer opportunities for co-operation at both the national and regional levels. The visiting and exchange programmes would help in the acquisition of new knowledge, new skills and new experiences. Additionally, it would provide increased awareness of the problems and opportunities the profession has to contend with and, hopefully, generate good-will and better understanding among the professional cadre.

Another pre-condition, essential for the successful implementation of these programmes, is adequate financial support. The corrugated and unreliable nature of the funding of library and information services in the West African sub-region has been documented by Boadi and Havard-Williams.[14] This unhealthy state of affiars is characteristic of almost all developing countries and has been a crucial factor in the slow development of the services. An improvement in the situation will depend on the national governments' serious acceptance of information as a vital element in social and economic development (as their participation in the two intergovernmental conferences of 1971 (UNISIST) and 1974 (NATIS) would have brought home to them) and their dedication to its development as such. Governmental support would also be needed in the establishment of national co-ordinating bodies as recommended by Unesco's General Information Programme and the provision of these bodies with the requisite financial, legal and administrative support. Governmental support would not end at the national level. It would have to be extended to the regional level to provide the necessary sustenance for the regional programmes. For the West African sub-region the needed governmental support and the co-ordination of the regional library and information activities could be channelled through ECOWAS - an organisation concerned with the promotion of co-operation and economic and social well being among its members. What is envisaged is an executive body which would comprise representatives of the various national (library and information) co-ordinating bodies. Under the aegis of ECOWAS this body would plan and implement the regional programmes.

The proposed regional organisation in place of the erstwhile East African Community would do the same for the East African sub-region. The acceptance of these responsibilities by the national governments would confirm their recognition of the importance of information and also their role in its development and use. Their individual national acceptance of the primacy of information would, in ECOWAS and such other regional bodies, be given a collective acknowledgement.

A great responsibility also lies with the profession, through its associations, for the promotion of regional co-operation. It is good in this regard to note the active involvement in regionalism by the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Libraries (SCECSAL) said to be the largest regional professional association in Africa.[15] The proposed Federation of West African Library Associations would also, hopefully, help to promote active regional co-operation in the West African sub-region.

The successful mobilisation of the regional library and information resources would be a positive step towards the effective utilisation of the resources. Regional co-operation for the attainment of this objective may have its problems. But is also has it potential for social and economic development. The realisation of this potential is the great challenge facing the library profession.

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VOICE OF KENYA'S ROLE IN COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION OF KENYA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

SPEAKER: MRS. M. KABEBERI (KENYA)

Broadcasting in Kenya was built on structures originally designed for the information and entertainment of the foreign communities who were based in urban centres and large farms. It's extension to include local languages only came during the years of the Second World War primarily to assist the colonial rule in spreading messages which favoured their involvement in the war. The system had ignored the needs of the overwhelming majority of the people in the rural areas. The introduction of television see service in Kenya which was inaugurated only months before independence in 1963 had also been planned for imported foreign programmes which were not designed for our country.

BROADCASTING AND CULTURE

Broadcasting in any society can be said to be essentially a cultural medium. It is a forum and vehicle through which the cultural values (including the performing arts, beliefs and social institutions of a people) can find fullest expression.

The Voice of Kenya realises its vital role in the revival, rejuvination and preservation of our cultural heritage most of which suffered severe hostility and suppression during the colonial era. She has a duty to encourage and nurture the creativity of our own indigeneous communities. There is continual need for deliberate efforts to be made in the promotion of Kenya's cultural values through appropriate

radio and television programming to counteract the strong influence of the various foreign cultures which have remained dominant in the African scene. It is for this reason that the Voice of Kenya has provided ample time for programmes of Cultural values and traditions, this is being done in different fields such as in language, music, drama, dance etc in her radio and television broadcasts.

LANGUAGE

At independence, the Voice of Kenya inherited the two main radio channels which had been divided to correspond with the two main languages - Kiswahili (the national language) and English. While at that time, there was a clear language demarcation across the Kenyan Population, Kenyas cultural and educational development over the past two decades is significant as more Kenyans are now capable of following radio and television broadcasts in Kiswahili than they were twenty years ago. The majority of our youth too are increasingly becoming not only proficient in both languages but also proud to excel in spoken Kiswahili. A good number of the minority non-Kenyans who could only speak their own tongues in those days can now communicate reasonably in Kiswahili and maybe other local dialects. The Voice of Kenya is therefore forced to respond to this cultural evolution not only to achieve its primary objectives but to play a full part in the process of these changes in national development. What might turn out to be the main hindrance to our efforts in this respect is the obvious lack of a common language of broadcast in which radio and television broadcasting

can bring cultural messages to everybody, luckily, Kenya is very much better off in this respect than many other countries in Africa which have no single language of mass communication apart from some other foreign language which is understood only by the literate section of the population. The majority of Kenyans understand songs played on radio in Kiswahili, Besides, many of our programmes featuring folk music, drama, dance worship, and other customs in both Kiswahili and English all attempt to bring different messages on culture to a across seation of the Kenyan audience.

A complete death of a dialect or a local language is to an extent, synonymous with the death of a peoples culture. It will always be met with resistance. This could perhaps be the reason why multilingual broadcasting is still surviving world-widely. Language, being the most effective mode of communicating ideas and feelings, forms one of the most important pillars of culture. It is also an accepted theory in communication that one communicates best in a language one understands best. It is therefore not suprising that many Broadcasting Organisations still encourage multilingual broadcasting. Most broadcasting organisations Kenya being one of them have a great task to ensure that programmes of historical and cultural values are featured evenly in their local dialects broadcasts.

MUSIC

It is a well known factor that music is one of the most common methods of African cultural expression and entertainment. With this in mind Voice of Kenya radio and

television schedules are usually crowded with [illegible] programmes from early in the morning till late at night on radio and from the opening till closing times on television. It is also being realised that music is one of the arts which are fast changing with the times and that unless every effort is made to keep abreast with the changes, it will be almost impossible to determine to what extent current music has been influenced by that of the past decades. Radio, by the very nature of its wide and instant reach over massive proportion of mixed audience, possesses the greatest of potentials and capabilities for promotion and preservation of music of a people. Music, as a unique source of entertainment and relaxation, continue to feature more prominently on the radio than talk programmes of general information and educational value. But music can be used on radio and television for many other purposes other than entertainment. What are these purposes?

Music has successfully been motivational towards changes of attitude and opinion. This is particularly so because composers and performers articulately supplement the melodious and rythmic charateristics of their music with definite messages artfully decorated with familiar idioms and persuasive lyrics to influence the listener. Radio stations have exploited this by the use of special musical programmes to appeal for redress against certain social and cultural ills. Like in the olden days when warriors would burst into war-songs, the radio plays partriotic songs to boost the morale and summon courage among its nationals to rally together against some common "enemy".

On the other hand, appropriate compositions would be aired to advocate full self-help co-operation, good neighbourliness, peace, social justice and such virtues.

COLLECTION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL

In independent Africa most Broadcasting organizations are now aware of the importance of urgent collection of cultural material not only for programme productions but also for preservation for future broadcasts and research. Taking Voice of Kenya as an example there are continuous activities in collecting Kenyas cultural material such as folk songs which have been passed from one generation to another, oral interviews where the old folk recollect the the past, folk stories, traditional music, drama, patriotic songs, dances, sporting activities and many others. The collection is in form of recordings on magnetic audio tapes, cassettes, video cassettes and tapes, films, gramophone records and still photographs. These recordings are first in form of programme inserts which are later assembled and produced into programmes for transmission in both radio and television network.

How is the material acquired? There are different ways in which Voice of Kenya uses to acquire the material, these include sending out recording teams to various parts of the country, purchase of commercial gramophone records, personal donations from various doners. Some of our migrated folk song and dances produced locally and recorded overseas find their way back to us and add up to our collections.

During Kenyas National days festivities, there are performances of traditional dances, and choirs by various ethnic groups of Kenya who gather to their local headquarters or come to the capital city of Nairobi where they entertain the gatherings. From these festivites recordings of rich cultural material is acquired for both radio and television broadcasting. Kenya holds and annual schools and colleges music and drama, festivals from where an impressive collection has been acquired. Other ways include studio interviews and talks. The Voice of Kenya has also acquired cultural materials of other lands through programme exchange, donations from diplomatic representatives of other countries and commercial recordings.

ORGANISATION

The rapid national development of radio and television broadcasting in most independent African countries has resulted in a continous influx of recordings of historical and cultural values. These recordings which find their way into Broadcasting libraries require careful administration in their handling, preservation and storage.

In Voice of Kenya these recordings are housed in three non-print media libraries namely - Film Library and Film Archives, Gramophone and Sound Tape Library and Sound Archives. In addition to cultural recordings the libraries hold other materials required for day to day programmes production and transmission.

Once the recordings are deposited in the libraries. They are given identification numbers, are auditioned, previewed edited as need arises and are ready for classification and cataloguing.

Classification is simply by subject, title geographical, numerical and alphabetical. The catalogue is prepared to meet the needs of the user and researcher it is either by subject, title, geographical composer, artist etc. The catalogue has to contain as much information as can be found to enable library users to locate any type of required recording in the shortest possible time. The recordings are filed numerically and alphabetically in air conditioned rooms for future use and research. Such recordings are restricted to authorized programmers and researchers however some recordings are compiled for programme exchange with other Broadcasting organisations particularly in Africa. Duplication of the recordings is thus not easily allowed, however, some cultural materials in form of folk music, traditional dances and patriotic songs are usually duplicated for our diplocatic embassies and missions abroad.

PROBLEMS

Broadcasting institutions are faced with problems in the administration of their audio-visual holdings, such could be:-

1. Lack of proper staff training. The present training available for print-media librarians is not suitable for non-print librarians particularly in Broadcasting.
2. Broadcasting librarians are faced with storage problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We attempt to make the following recommedations:-

1. The tendency of various Broadcasting authorities to start audio-visual libraries with a small even a tentative collection under the care of nobody in partdcular must be deplored, for when the collection grows to such a big size as to require the attention of a full time qualified librarian this librarian will find it difficult to practice any positive policy unless he or she does a large amount of ground-clearing first.
2. There should be a clear distinction between non-print and print-libraries particularly in Broadcasting. This must be accepted and fully recognized to facilitate a well defined scheme of service and career be hiearchy.
3. The training of a Broadcasting Librarian should consist of a planned combination of off-the-job and on-the-job phases with the latter taking more time.
4. Educational bodies such as UNESCO, Broadcasting organisations and associations such as CBA, URTNA, EBU IASA should urgently look into the problems facing Broadcasting libraries and come up with a possible solution.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion we call upon Broadcasting organisations and other able institutions in Africa to urgently embark on mass collections and preservation of the History, cultural heritage, and development of the present African continent in all readily available modern technology for posterity purposes. "To-days Africa MUST. be preserved for tomorrows generation in all forms allowed by to-days technology."

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IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, NAIROBI 1984

DIVISION:

SECTION: Official Publication

The organisation and access of Kenya official publications and their contribution to national development.

by

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Librarian, Kenya National Archives

and

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THE ORGANISATION AND ACCESS OF KENYA OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By
H. Kamua and H.A. Liyai

Introduction

Kenya attained her independence from Britain in December, 1963. Since this period, the activities of the Government have increased tremendously. Wtih the expansion of the Government operations with its various bureaus, commissions, corporations as well as international governmental organisations, a lot of documents have been produced.

The IFLA Publications Session has defined official publications to include any document, printed or produced by any other reprographic method in multiple copies and issue by an organisation that may be considered to be an Official body, and are to a public, wider than that body. IFLA's definition of Official Publications is thus very wide encompassing all publications produced by recognised bodies be they governmental parastatal or private. For the purpose of this paper, Official Publications will be considered as those publications produced by government industries and departments, parastatal organisations and other government affiliated bodies.

As we shall see, the source of these publications are diverse and uncoordinated. It is there fore difficult to talk of a common source, be it a publisher and distributor.

The most prevalent problem is the problem of sources. This is due to the fact that no secondary sources are written for information on general production and distribution policies. For example the Government Printer

lists for sale does not reflect all what they actually print because there are publications which are not for public consumption and are therefore not listed anywhere.

Access to the official publications is through various ways. The Government institutions have departmental and specialised libraries which cater for user information needs. The need for libraries in government departments was noted in 1980 in a study of Library and Information. And according to Musisi, "It is in Government departments that Kenya's bulk research of activities are being carried out and primary materials published either by Government Printer or as Mimeographs."[1] Various Government institutions have libraries serving them. The degree and efficiency of these libraries depends upon the activities of the parent organisation. Few of these libraries offer facilities to readers who are unable to satisfy their needs from public sources.

Production

Government Publications are produced through the activities of the executive, legislature and Judicial arms of the Government as well as through research institutes and other affiliated bodies in relation to their areas of specialisation.

A detailed investigation into the whole question of official publications would require more time and resources than the authors of this paper can dispense with at the moment. It requires detailed examination of various relevant institutions within the country. Nevertheless, we shall attempt to show a general picture of the state of official publications, in regard to production and accessibility in Kenya. A representative sample of the types of publications produced by different institutions

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1. IFLA Journal Vol. 10 No. 2 (1984)

is discussed. It is however hoped that this paper will be expanded in due course as the role of publications and in particular official publications is indispensable to national development. This paper will therefore serve as a stimuli for further research in this vital area. The format as well as the subject content of these publications varies. They normally appear in form of series or single treatices and they deal with various issues and cover a broad spectrum of knowledge. Some of these documents are restricted to use only by specified clientele usually within the institution. However, except in very rare circumstances, documents do not remain restricted or confidential for a long time. The output from these institutions ranges from handbooks, general orders, financial instructions, indexes, digests, statistical reports, regulations and directives, directories, budge speeches, project reports, feasibility studies, magazines, bulletins, research findings, official programmes and annual reports, etc.

LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL

The publications generated through the activities of the National Assembly which is the supreme law making body in the country includes the National Assembly debates, the bills, Acts, subsidiary legislation and supplements, orders of the day and votes and proceedings and sessional papers (or white papers) as well as commissions of inquiry reports. The legal documents such as law reports deal with matters related to the constitution and are produced by the Judiciary.

FINANCE AND PLANNING

The Ministry of Finance and Planning under its various division draws very heavily from the resources of all the other ministries and Departments. It is charged with the task of developing factual knowledge of the economy, to specify and analyze targets; formulate and evaluate plan policies and projects, co-ordinate and communicate plans, to implement the National Development plans and to evaluate its operations

and to promote its revision and flexibility.[2]

The Ministry therefore, produces the Recurrent and Development estimates of expenditure revenue estimates, Budges Speeches as well as national and district Development Plans. The ministry works in close co-operation with the Central Bureau of Statistics (C.B.S.) which is one of the divisions of this Ministry. The Bureau is charged with the responsibility of collecting, correlating, analysing and publicising statistics with particular emphasis on studies and surveys which would assist in economic decisions. The C.B.S. produces census reports, statistical abstracts, statistical digests; social perspectives, Employment and Earning in the Modern sector, the statistics of large and small agricultural farms as well as Economic Surveys.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of the Kenya Economy. The Government therefore encourages agriculture and livestock development through research undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock Development, Lands and Settlement and Co-operative Development and various Statutory Boards and Corporations. As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has seven national research stations, seven regional investigation stations and about twenty sub-stations carrying out crop improvement for increased commodity production.[3]

Kenya as a result has produced high yielding maize seed. It has also produced vaccines for the common cattle diseases like East Coast Fever. The Ministry of Agriculture has established the Kenya Agricultural Documentation Centre and Library Services to cater for its various users. It also has the Agricultural Information Centre for the purpose of disseminating agricultural research especially to extension workers for onward transmission to farmers.

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2. Kenya Official Handbook 1963 - 1983, pg. 63.
3. Kenya Official Handbook 1963-- 1983, pg. 92.

Commerce and Industry, and standards

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is charged with the responsibility of external trade. Through their efforts to control and expand external and internal trade they produce trade directories and Indexes and other relevant literature. The Ministry is assisted by the Industrial and Commercial Development Corporation (I.C.D.C.). The I.C.D.C. is the main Government financial institution in Kenya and has been charged with the responsibility of assisting development of the Commercial and Industrial sectors of the economy. It has numerous subsidiaries which have benefitted from its finances. A lot of publications are therefore produced covering the activities of I.C.D.C. in areas of industry, commerce and banking. It should be noted here that I.C.D.C., a state organization has a well-established and fully operational library. The Kenya Bureau of Standards is another sector of Commerce and Industry. The Bureau produces standards of various products which are produced by Kenyan manufacturers. Like the I.C.D.C. the Bureau has a self-established documentation unit.

Energy

The Ministry of Energy which is charged with the responsibility of maintaining and developing new sources of energy produces documents relating to all aspects of energy. Useful information from various quarters is made available to all interested.

Works, Housing and Physical Planning

The Ministry of Works, Housing and Physical Planning is responsible for the formulation and implementation of Government policies in building programmes. Technical departments of the Ministry provide professional advice. The Ministry produces documents relating to building specifications especially for building contractors, issues regulations and technical instructions for maintenance of Government building as well as building

standards. The Ministry's Kenya Building Research Centre plays a vital role in the provision of the necessary information to the building industry. This Centre concentrates on the collection and dissemination of information on building materials and products produced locally. Its library contains a comprehensive range of technical reference books on building and design.

Information and Broadcasting

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting produces various publications. These range from rural newspapers published in Kiswahili to magazines and periodicals (e.g. Inside Kenya Today, Kenya Yetu, and Radio and TV Times). The film production section concentrates on documentary films for the Voice of Kenya Television, and mobile cinema vans which operate in the rural areas.

The Kenya News Agency of the same ministry is responsible for news for the mass media and government departments. The KNA collects news from abroad and supplies news to overseas stations.

Education

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is charged with the responsibility of basic and higher education in the country. It is assisted by the Kenya Institute of Education and the Kenya National Examination Council and numerous specialised sections and departments. The Kenya Institute of Education is mainly charged with the preparation of curriculum for both primary and secondary education, teacher training, special education, technical education and business education as well as adult education. It is also charged with the responsibility of conducting out research to support the Ministry's various needs. It therefore produces a lot of official publications and it has a well stocked library to cater for various users.

The Ministry's institute of higher learning do produce a lot of research

publications which contribute to teaching materials and for solving particular research problems in the country. The University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University College fall under this Ministry and through education and research, they have contributed a lot to the country's national development.

Health

The Ministry of Health is charged with the responsibility of providing adequate health services to the Kenya's population. The Ministry, therefore, monitors and co-ordinates health development in Kenya and liaises with non-government institutions, provincial and district hospitals, health centres and dispensaries.

The Ministry has various research institutes with Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) co-ordinating and working in close co-operation with the University of Nairobi Faculty of medicine and the Institute of African Studies for related social research.

The Ministry's health information system unit supervises and assists in the development of health programmes throughout the country and the dissemination on research. Official publications produced by the Ministry and its Departments are numerous and are geared towards the improvement of better health services and therefore a healthy nation.

Access

Access to official publications is through the departmental libraries of the various Ministries and Departments, through the National Archives and through documentation and information centres and research stations as well as Government Printing.

The Government Printing Agency, the Government Press, gives access to the publications which qualifies for distribution through its bookshop, mailing lists and subscription services. Priced publications are also purchased from other bookshops besides the Government Printer Bookshop.

Institutions which produce and store government publications have regulations governing their availability. In most cases these publications are treated as reference materials and where lending is availed to users, it is usually restricted lending. Normally, materials from departmental and institutional libraries is made available to members of the respective institutions. Outside users are only allowed through permission. According to the "Subject Guide to Information sources in Kenya,"[4] about 90% of the 140 government libraries and 52 parastatal libraries serve members of staff only. The reasons for restricted lending could be the fact that these documents are difficult to acquire, go out of print very quickly and since they are not normally available in commercial bookshops it is not easy to find replacements in case documents are lost. There is also the fact that their acquisitions become quite difficult due to frequent reorganisation of Ministries and Departments. For example within a period of 20 years the following changes have occured within one Ministry:

Labour and Social Services.
Co-operative and Social Services.
Housing and Social Services.
Culture and Social Services.

However, most special libraries, documentation and information Centres do prepare catalogues and specialised Indexes and bibliographies for ease of access. The Ministry of Agriculture documentation and library services together with its sister organisation, the Agricultural Information Centre are an excellent example of the access to research by the various agricultural research stations and to individual farmers. KADOC announces the literature it collects in its Kenya Agricultural Abstracts through repackaged information. Most information centres do process official publications through the use of conventional

4. Subject to Information sources in Kenya - jointly published by Kenya Library Association and National Council for Science and Technology.

manuals, but others use inhouse prepared classification systems.

All the same, not all official documents are accessible. Some of these publications are labelled 'secret' and others 'confidential' and these documents are available to selected clientele and may remain in that state up to the time they are de-classified, and if they are passed to the National Archives they can only be available for public inspection after thirty years. Due to their restricted lendings exchange programs on these publications becomes quite difficult.

PROBLEMS OF ACCESS

Problems of access to official publications stem from the fact that these materials are produced by diverse sources and they are therefore difficult to control. Up to the present there has not been a comprehensive bibliography of official publications. The lack of a comprehensive bibliography is attributed to the fact that, not all official publications are printed.

Many feasibility research surveys, preliminary research findings are either handwritten, cyclostyled and typed and these therefore escape the attention of the Government Press and other institutions. The files which contain some of these publications are deposited in the archives when out of currency and at this stage, they are useful for historical research and as a reflection of the Country's economic and social research at different historical stages.

The Government Printer does not issue a list of the publications it does not distribute. It therefore does not issue lists for publications it prints on behalf of departments which are returned to the respective departments for distribution.

The recipient departments do not also issue any type of lists to show whatever they have published at a given period. It is therefore evident that some important research works produced by departments and not published by government printer are difficult to trace in terms of what actually has been produced and where it can be found. Faced with this problem, bibliographic control becomes very difficult to achieve. There is also the fact that Government Printer has an overload of work and recommends some of its non sensitive material to commercial printers. These works printed else where do not appear on the Government Printers records.

The lack of reliable lists from Government Printer therefore, makes it difficult for libraries to cross-check against their holdings so that they can fill their gaps. As it is, libraries and other institutions make periodic visits to Government Printer to check on any new publications. The Kenya Gazette, which contains Law, Government notices, General notices and non-commercial advertisements and is published every friday by government printer normally lists any publications for sale. The publications for sale are not always new publiations but are reprints from out of print items. It is an obvious fact that only through the preparations of indexes and bibliographies and other access tools to these publications that their information value is put to fullest possible use for the benefit of the nation.

Some Bibliographies Produced on Official Publications

Howell, John Bruce: East African Community. Subject guide to official publication (Washington) library of congress, 1976, XVI, 272p.

Howell, John Bruce-Kenya subject guide to official publications Washington, Library of congress, 1978, 422p.

Kenya National Bibliography 1980 (1983). Compiled by the National Bibliographic Agency attached to the Kenya National Library Services.

Under the Books and Newspaper Act Cap III the Laws of Kenya, any private (non-government) organisation publishing books and newspapers in Kenya must deposit three copies of every book and two copies of every newspaper published in Kenya with the Registrar of Books and newspapers at the Office of the Attorney General, within fourteen days after publication. The deposited copies are supposed to be distributed as follows:

University of Nairobi - 1 copy.
Kenya National Library Services - 1 copy.
Kenya National Archives.

The present practice is that books and newspapers are deposited at the discretion of the publishers and many publishers do not adhere to the act. The Newspaper publishers are required by the law to sign a bond with the Registrars Office in case of any default. This means that the Office of the Registrar General has a list of all newspaper publishers in Kenya. This is not the case with the book publishers and there is nothing binding them with the Registrar of Books and Newspapers. As a result a list of publishing houses in Kenya is not available.

This lack information on these publishing houses makes it difficult to have an effective check on who has deposited copies and who has not. On the other hand, it is difficult for the Registrar to know the quantity of books from all these publishers. As a result publishers do deposit only copies which are lowly priced but the highly priced items are normally

not deposited. Therefore the quality and quantity of the deposit collections doesnot reflect what is actually published within the country.

The Official publications and audio-visual materials are not included in the deposit act. This is probably because the act was enacted during the colonial administration who actually wanted to censor whatever was published outside the Government printing agency. The fact that the Act does not include official publications means that feasibility studies carried by various institutions and surveys of research done by International bodies like United Nations on behalf of government Ministries and departments are deposited with the sponsoring agency and the Ministry concerned. Other would be users do not benefit from this type of research. This also makes the deposit collection incomplete especially for the purposes of a national bibliography.

Recipient libraries on the other hand do experience a lot of delay before copies are finally deposited, this could be an administrative problem at the office of the Registrar but all the same immediate access to current information is not possible. In view of the inadequacy of the Act, its immediate revision is necessary, since in its present form, it is a major contributor to the problems of bibliographic control.

The Kenya National bibliography 1980 (1983) which is produced by the National Collection and Bibliography Agency, which is one of the recipients of the legal deposit materials, will partly fill the gap of bibliographic control of official publications. But all the same the KNB would not offer a full coverage of these publications because some of them are labelled 'secret' and 'confidential' and not every file of these publications will be deposited with the National Collection

and Bibliographic Agency.

At the same time the KNB does not cover non-print materials which are constantly becoming an important information source.

It is only after the revision of the Legal deposit Act to include government publications and non-print materials, that the KNB can claim to offer at least a full coverage of all publications produced in Kenya.

CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Information is the nerve centre of a country's development in all its sectors as it is a source of national wealth. Access to information therefore leads to an educated, informed and advanced society.

Government official publications reflect the level of political, scientific, economic and social developments of a particular country. Their full utilization is essential for economic, scientific and social development.

In Kenya, the official publications are utilised in policy matters, in decision making, and for effective planning which all contribute to national development. These publications are also useful for current as well as historical research in all disciplines. To this effect the Kenya National Archives is highly used for historical research. But most of the existing departmental libraries and other specialised libraries have not yet reached a high level of efficiency. These libraries when properly organised will be essential sources of bibliographical information for research and even further studies.

Though the special libraries could not be regarded as highly efficient, the Government has recognised their contribution to research. It has therefore established many research centres as it has realised the impact of research in accelerating national development. These research oriented developments are recognised in the technological innovations in agriculture which have enabled Kenya to significantly increase her output of maize, dairy and other agricultural products.

CO-ORDINATION OF INFORMATION SERVICES

It is true that no single library can claim to satisfy its users in all their information needs. Moreover most of these libraries do specialise on certain areas, although there is quite some duplication and overlap of acquisitions. Faced with these problems, the government through an act of Parliament of the Laws of Kenya Chap. 250), 1977 has established the National Council for Science and Technology to cater and co-ordinate research activities. The Council is therefore the national focal point for science and is expected to advise the government on all aspects of Science and Technology and especially their application for national development. The council has a section, the Kenya National Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (KENSDOC) which is charged with the responsibility to "develop a co-ordinated scientific information referral system linking the various libraries and documentation centres within the country and where possible access to data bases outside the country."[5]

It is therefore hoped that this centre (KENSDOC) will provide up-to-date information on Scientific and Technological manpower and research activities within the country as well as issue comprehensive directories on studies already completed. With its full operation, duplication of efforts

5. Republic of Kenya - The National Council for Science and Technology - General Information - 1984, pg. 9.

will be overcome.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Efficiently organised information centres need professional staff. The professional staff would take care of the already established centres as well as the ones to be established in future. It is common knowledge that Government libraries are poorly staffed as most of them are manned by clerical officers. In order for any information to be adequately used, libraries must produce user access tools. This could be in form of catalogue cards or specialised subject bibliographies. These user services cannot be undertaken by untrained personnel as they require specialised knowledge.

At present, the Kenya Polytechnic is offering a certificate course for archives and library assistants and with the operation of the second University, which will have a faculty of Information and library science librarians will be able to get under graduate and post-graduate qualifications.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing discussion, we can conclude that the information produced by the government and its related institutes when properly collected and processed is a most important source of national wealth. It is no wonder that developed countries have realised this and are investing heavily in providing and co-ordinating access to specialised information in all sectors.

IAH-PB.3-E

WHAT DOES THE AFRICAN WORLD EXPECT FROM IFLA:

A RESPONCE BY:

IMN KIGONGO - BUKENYA

I was assigned to deliver a short paper on "What does the African World expect from IFLA ?" I find that all I had prepared to cover in my paper has been vividly expounded by my colleague Monsieur Ndiaye, who happens to be at the same time, the Chairman of the IFLA African Group.

Since Monsieur Ndiaye, is an insider of IFLA, he knows better. I therefore have to improvise. Hence I turn on the critical front, ant I will briefly comment on the pitfalls or shortcomings IFLA has encountered in the provision of library services to Africa. However, in doing this, there are a few issues I want to examine bearing in mind that anybody's expectation would be circumscribed by what the expecter is and consequently what is expected from him; then what the expectee is and last but not least the expecter's capability index. In this context, we ought to discuss what Africa regards IFLA as, what the African World is, specifying the stages of development and problems encountered, what IFLA has done for Africa, and then criticisms on what IFLA has endeavoured to do.

The African Library World regards IFLA as the "Ambivalent Collosus" competent to solve the varied problems that thwart library development elsewhere as well as Africa. Bothembourg perhaps paints a better picture by his words: IFLA is the deer octopus of Terense Rattingan's play "or ..... an international family with tentacles reaching out constantly to the members wherever they may be, bringing them together at regular intervals to discuss their experiences and view points and pool their professional experiences" . In otherwords, Africa views IFLA as initiator , advisor, facilitator and financier of Library development in Africa.

Meeting 49. Si

But Africa seems to have more indomitable library problems than those experienced in the developed world. Indeed these problems have been tackled differently in as many African countries. This explains why library services are very developed in some countries while in others only satisfactory development has been recorded, and yet mediocre level or just beginning in others.

Any African librarian will always cite the catalogue of library problems in Africa. At the forefront of them all is apathy - lack of interest or sympathy by the powers which should provide resources for library development. This results in lack of legislation, the basis on which services should develop, the construction of library buildings, provision of library equipment and the reading materials.

To say the above is not to under emphasize the role IFLA has played in Africa library development. The Annual Conferences are now a common feature.

At such meetings, African Librarians of varied status join the other experienced colleagues and experts from developed countries and share experiences which spurs them to better approach in solving library problems. IFLA in connection with UNESCO and other funding agencies organise training seminars for colleagues from the third world, which includes Africa. By this arrangement, colleagues from Africa attend pre-conference seminars and the IFLA General Conference at no cost to them. The Martinus Nijhoff Study grant enables a young librarian from the third world (including Africa) to study a specific subject in library services in Western Europe. The IFLA Publication programme avails varied publications where developments, research, and features on library development are published. Publications include IFLA Journal, Medium Programme 1981 - 84, Divisional and Section Newsletters and IFLA statutes and Rules of Procedure. These keep colleagues from Africa abreast of development in library work.

IFLA's creation of the Division of Regional Activities with a section dedicated to Africa has provided the opportunity for wider and further participation of the countries concerned and also enables them formulate appropriate projects in keeping with national and regional needs. Lastly, one cannot overlook the concern IFLA has paid to issues like education for library personnel, legislation, standards, etc. which affect library development in Africa.

IFLA has done much for library development but many criticisms have been levelled against it. Some of these are discussed below in the hope that if they were looked into, better results would emerge.

In the fifty or so years of IFLA's existance, this is the only time IFLA Conference has been held in Africa. Perhaps, holding conferences away from Africa has had adverse effect. For one this, the conferences and hence the discussions and resolutions have been dominated by librarians from developed countries. For the other, limited participation by African librarians has been the order of the day and consequently, interaction with experts and experienced librarians has been limited.

Many IFLA publications and reports are not easily accessible to those who need them most. Those who get them, sometimes are baffled by the technical jargon which is incoprehensible to the non-professionals or laymen. Yet these are the people who, if they read and understand the publications, would probably play major role in library development. Such people include civil servants and politicians.

It has seemed the belief in the past that foreign experts could identify problems and their solutions in the African Library Work. In many cases, this has been disappointing because the same developments in industrised library world do not work when imported in Africa without adaptation.

Sometimes, the approach to library problems in Africa has not been realistic. U.B.C. has been talked about in some countries without prior establishment of legal deposit laws. U.A.P. is being preached when in many countries illiteracy is still rampant: no authors and consequently no literature. What all this suggests is that perhaps IFLA should tackle such fundamental problems first before going afield. Probably the worst critism against IFLA is that each year many resolutions are passed, but this appears conference rhetoric because no conclusive follow up is taken to ensure that action is taken by the appropriate authorities.

To voice the above is not to be unappreciative of the tremendous contribution IFLA has afforded Africa. These criticisms are highlighted to illustrate the fact that, the more conferences and seminars will be held in Africa, the more experts and librarians from developed countries will appreciate the problems that still baffle the African Library World, and the more they will evolve strategies and extend their arms of assistance and advice.

Indeed, as my colleague SOSAI said: "IFLA will need to harness all its professional and other resources to meet the anticipated demand for assistance and advice, and initiate and support the programme which have a direct bearing on problems of the third world countries" (Africa included).

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The Establishment and Development of a Nationwide System of Libraries in Sierra Leone with particular reference to Public Libraries

by

Gloria Dillsworth

Chief Librarian

Sierra Leone Library Board

Although I have been asked to outline the steps which have been taken in my country Sierra Leone since 1970 to establish and develop a nationwide system of libraries with particular reference to public libraries you will forgive me if I start off by briefly outlining the development of public libraries in Sierra Leone before 1970. I crave your indulgence to do this because I regret to state that apart from the training of professional staff in overseas institutions (there is no library school in Sierra Leone) and the local training of library assistants for the City and Guilds of London Library Assistants' certificate examinations there were no significant library developments between March 1966 when the library building in Makeni the Regional Headquarter town of the Northern Province was completed and the 11th January 1980 when the first branch library in Freetown was opened at Kissy Low Cost Housing Estate in the East End of Freetown. The funds for the erection of this building were provided by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the United Kingdom through the British Council in Sierra Leone, as part of the British Government's public library development projects for Sierra Leone.

In June 1980, the Bumbuna branch library in the Northern Province was opened and in February 1982 Kabala branch library also in the Northern Province was opened. Since then no more branch libraries have been opened even though the Sierra Leone Library Board has continued to receive requests for the establishment of branch libraries in various towns in the Provinces. The Board has not been able to establish branch libraries in these towns solely because of the difficulty it has encountered in acquiring suitable premises for the libraries. Some members of Parliament and private individuals who are connected with

these towns have manifested a keen interest in library development for these areas and have offered to help secure premises for the libraries. A few members of Parliament have continued to show some interest in the development of libraries in their constituencies and hometowns but a greater involvement is needed not just words and no deeds. An awareness of the importance of libraries and their contribution to national development is not very evident in Sierra Leone. As foreign aid for libraries is not very forth coming in the present world-wide bleak economic climate the development of public libraries will depend upon local interest and initiative and the commitment of the National Government.

Since 1962 when the UNESCO Regional Seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Africa was held in Enugu, Nigeria, Sierra Leone has been represented at the subsequent numerous International Conferences on library development in Africa. Under the UNESCO participation programme two consultants were invited to conduct a one month mission in Sierra Leone in 1976 and 1983 respectively with the following terms of reference "to evaluate the present state of library services in Sierra Leone and assist in drawing up a national public library development plan within the framework of the National Information Systems (NATIS)." No report was submitted in 1976 due to the illness of the consultant. The 1983 report has been submitted to UNESCO.

SIERRA LEONE - Background

Sierra Leone is one of the smallest countries on the West Coast of Africa. It is bounded on the north, north-west and north-east by the Republic of Guinea, on the south-east by Liberia and on the south-west by the Atlantic Ocean. The area of Sierra Leone is 27,925 sq. miles (73,326 sq. km) and the population is 3.4 million. The climate is tropical with high temperature averaging about 80°F (26°C) throughout the year. There are two distinct seasons - dry season from November to April and wet season from May to October with heaviest rains from July

to September with as much as 125 inches a year common in most parts of the country. The dry season is notable for its humidity particularly in the coastal regions. The harmattan - a cool dry wind from the Sahara is prevalent between December and January.

Sierra Leone is divided into the Western Area which includes a mountainous peninsula 40 km long and 16 km wide and 3 provinces - Southern, Eastern and Northern covering 12 districts each administered by a Resident Minister. The principal ethnic groupings are the Temnes, Limba, Lokos and Korankos in the north, the Mendes in the south and the Kissis and Konos in the East. Freetown the capital city situated in the Western Area is a cosmopolitan city made up of many different peoples the majority of which are the Creoles (or Krios). The Creoles are mostly descendants of liberated Africans and Freed Slaves who have evolved a distinctive Afro-European culture and who speak a language called Krio which has now become the lingua-franca for the whole country. The population of Freetown is roughly 300,000. English is the official language of Sierra Leone but the rate of illiteracy in English is about 85%.

The religion of Islam is practised by a large majority of the population but there is a small percentage of Christians belonging to the Protestant and Roman Catholic denominations.

Sierra Leone was formerly a British Colony which attained independence from Great Britain in April 1961 under the leadership of the late Sir Milton Margai. Sierra Leone became a Republic on the 19th of April 1971 and subject to the Provisions of the Constitution, Executive Power is vested in the President who is also the Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Fountain of Honour. The President Dr. Siaka P. Stevens is also the Leader and Secretary-General of the ruling party the All Peoples Congress (APC).

The Library System

There exists in Sierra Leone a Library system which include most of the principal types of library; University, Public, Government (i.e., Ministeries), Teacher Training Colleges, Special and School.

University Libraries

There are libraries in the two constituent colleges of the University of Sierra Leone - Fourah Bay College the oldest University College in Africa South of the Sahara is situated in Freetown the capital city. The College was founded in 1827 by the Church Missionary Society. In 1876 it became a University College affiliated to Durham University in Great Britain and in 1966 it became a constituent College of the University of Sierra Leone; and Njala University College - the other constituent college which is situated at Njala in the Southern Province 125 (200 km) from Freetown. It was founded in 1964. It specializes in Agriculture but also offers degree courses in Education and Home Economics.

Government (Ministeries) Department Libraries

With the exception of the library in the Geological Department, the Ministry of Development Library, and the Medical Library at the Connaught Hospital in Freetown the libraries in the various ministeries are not organised and in some departments libraries are non-existent. The Medical Library is mainly for Doctors. There is a library in the Nurses Training School but there is no hospital library service for the patients in the various hospitals. The Sierra Leone Library Board does from time to time deposit with the Hospital Welfare Officer consignments of books and periodicals from the Ranfurly Library Service of Great Britain. These are distributed to the various hospitals.

Special Libraries

There are very few special libraries in Sierra Leone the most important being the Library of the Bank of Sierra Leone - the Central

Bank, the Law Officers Department Library, the Judicial Library in the Law Courts Building, the Central Statistics Library and the Mano River Union Secretariat Library and the Library at the Rice Research station at Rokupr in the Northern Province.

Teacher Training Colleges Libraries

There are libraries in the 5 Teacher Training Colleges in Sierra Leone. The libraries at the Milton Margai Teachers College in Freetown and the Women Teachers College at Port Loko in the Northern Province are well organised. The International Development Association (I.D.A.) provided funds for the setting up of the library at Bumbuna Teachers College in the Eastern Province. Plans are underway for the construction of a library at Makeni Teachers College in the Northern Province.

School Libraries

There are about 150 Secondary Schools in Sierra Leone and although many principals of Secondary Schools are very much aware of the importance of a good school library the libraries in the majority of the secondary schools are far below standard. A few schools however have fairly good libraries but there is no professional librarian in any of the schools. A few of the school libraries are run by "Teacher-Librarians" i.e., graduate and non-graduate teachers who have taken the school librarianship options provided by the Diploma in Education course at Fourah Bay College and the Bachelor of Education course at Njala University College, Milton Margai Teachers' College and the Women Teachers' College at Port Loko also have similar courses in school librarianship.

The emphasis in such courses is on matters of library organisation and library techniques. A few of the secondary school libraries are run by library assistants who possess the City and Guilds of London Library and Information Assistants' Certificate. The school library grants of two leones (roughly 70 cents U.S.A. or 60 English pence) per pupil have been re-instated by the Ministry of Education.

There are 1,400 Primary (elementary) schools in Sierra Leone but very few of them have libraries. The libraries in the private elementary schools and some Roman Catholic schools are better organised and fairly well-stocked. Libraries in most of the Municipal, District Council and Mission schools are mostly a collection of books kept under lock and key in a cupboard in the Headteacher's office or at the Headteacher's house as is very often the case in the rural areas where the schools have no doors or windows.

Professional Training

There is no library school in Sierra Leone. All the professional librarians have been trained overseas in the United Kingdom, the United States or in Nigeria on scholarship awarded by the Sierra Leone Government and some donor Agencies. Sierra Leone still continues to look overseas for training at professional level and six members of the staff of the Sierra Leone Library Board are at present undergoing professional training in the U.S.S.R. on scholarships awarded by the U.S.S.R. Government. The Sierra Leone Government now rarely awards scholarships for professional training in Library Science. A number of scholarships have been awarded by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of Great Britain through the British Council as part of the Technical Cooperation Training Programme.

Non-Professional Training

(a) University of Sierra Leone

Fourah Bay College Library and the Extramural Department of Fourah Bay College and Njala University College run courses for library assistants leading to the City and Guilds of London Library and Information Assistants Certificate which is essentially a library assistant's qualification with a European bias but which is temporarily meeting the very great need for trained middle level man power. Fourah Bay College plans to introduce a Diploma Course for non-professional library staff soon.

(b) Sierra Leone Library Board

In 1983 the Sierra Leone Library Board instituted an in-Service training course for its library assistants - the junior sub-professional support staff and library assistants from other institutions. At the moment these library assistants are prepared for the City and Guilds of London Library and Information Certificate examination. The lectures are given by the professional staff of the Sierra Leone Library Board and four out of eight library assistants passed the December 1983 examinations. The course curriculum will later be designed to meet local needs.

Sierra Leone Library Association

There is in Sierra Leone a Library Association which was founded in 1970 and which has a small membership. The Association is open to all persons interested in libraries and librarianship. There are about 35 professional librarians in Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leone Library Association publishes The Sierra Library Journal and it will soon publish a revised edition of A Directory of Libraries and Information Services in Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leone Library Association holds seminars and workshops on various aspects of library work and it has been particularly concerned with the development of libraries in the secondary schools and with the training of middle-level man power support staff in libraries.

Library Legislation

The Sierra Leone Library Board Act was passed in 1959 and is now in need of revision. The setting up of the Board was envisaged in the Government's "White Paper on Educational Development" 1958 and its functions outlined therein as follows:

The provision of a National library service will seek to serve the following main purposes:

(a) to support and reinforce programmes of adult and fundamental education;
(b) to provide effective services for children and young people, including requisite services for schools;
(c) to provide much-needed information and reference services;
(d) to promote and stimulate reading for pleasure and recreation;
(e) to provide where needed adequate services for special groups, i.e., women and girls, language groups etc.

The Sierra Leone Library Board was also empowered by law "to establish, equip, manage and maintain libraries in Sierra Leone."

Public Libraries

Although the word 'public' is not included in the Sierra Leone Library Board Act which was modelled on the Gold Coast (now Ghana) Library Board Ordinance of 1950 the Sierra Leone Library Board has over the years attempted to provide a nationwide public library service. The Central Library and Headquarters building at Rokel Street, Freetown was opened in January 1964. The capital cost of this building included a grant of £35,000 from the United Kingdom Government through the British Council and the Sierra Leone Government provided an additional £10,000.

Administratively, the Board operates three Provincial Libraries each located in the Provincial headquarter towns of Bo (Southern Province), Kenema (Eastern Province) and Makeni (Northern Province) and 10 (ten) Branch Libraries each located in the district headquarter towns of Bonthe, Bumbuna, Kabala, Kailahun, Kambia, Koidu, Magburaka, Mattru, Pujehun and Kissy Branch Library in Freetown. Originally the District Libraries were administered by the District Councils, but when Government dissolved the District Councils, the Sierra Leone Library Board was asked to take up the administration of these libraries and in 1973, they became branch libraries of the Sierra Leone Library Board. The library in Bonthe is still housed in the District Council premises. Kambia, Magburaka, Mattruc and Pujehun branch libraries are in rented premises. Kailahun branch was a self-help project and Koidu branch is housed in a room in the Community Centre.

The Provincial and Branch libraries have continued to play an effective role in supporting both formal and informal education in their respective areas. The public library development proposals for the government's second 5 year development plan includes the establishment of Branch libraries in the various districts. When funds for the expansion of Kenema and Makeni Provincial Libraries are made available, extensions would be made to the provincial headquarter at Kenema and Makeni as these have now become too small for our needs.

The Sierra Leone Library Board also operates a Primary School Service which was established in 1961. The main concern of this provision of deposit collections of books for Primary Schools in small towns and villages where libraries have not been established. These collections were changed once a year but subject to the availability of funds and books they will be changed once a quarter during each school year. In 1980, the Board took delivery of two Landrover type mobile libraries. One of the mobile libraries will be based in the Provincial Headquarter Library in Bo to serve the Southern and Eastern Province - the other is temporarily based at the Central Library in Freetown to serve the Western Area and Northern Province. As soon as the extension to the Northern Regional Library is completed, a mobile library will be based in Makeni to serve the Northern Province. About 860 (eight hundred and sixty) primary schools are covered by this service which is starved of books. The British Council has over the years greatly helped to alleviate this problem by its generous annual book presentation programme. The Ranfurly Library Service of Great Britain also donates large consignments of children's books which are added to the stock of this service and the bookstock of the children's library in Freetown.

Legal Deposit

Under the Publication Amendment Act of 1962, three copies of every book published in Sierra Leone must be deposited at the Sierra Leone Library Board. The term 'book' covers a volume of work, or plan, printed or lithographed separately. It does not cover newspapers or

price lists. One copy is sent to Fourah Bay College Library, the second copy is sent to the British Library in London and the third copy remains at the Sierra Leone Library Board.

National Bibliography

The Sierra Leone Library Board is responsible for compiling the current annual bibliography - Sierra Leone Publications: a list of books and pamphlets in English received by the Sierra Leone Library Board under the Publications Amendment Act, 1962, Classification is done by the 18th edition of Dewey Decimal Classification. Cataloguing is according to the Anglo-American Cataloguing rules (AACR 67) (British Text) the ISBD (M) and (S) have been used since 1978.

The Sierra Leone Library Board has been engaged in various UBC activities including the preparation of a list of Higher Legislative and Ministerial Bodies in African countries, and also a manual of annotated ISBD examples due to be published soon. The Sierra Leone Library Board is a member of the African Standing Conference on Bibliographic Control (ASCOBIC). The Library Board is also a depository library for United Nations publications, UNESCO Publications of the various agencies of the United Nations.

General Problems

All the libraries in Sierra Leone are suffering from inadequate resources of staff, buildings and books. Local publishing is practically non-existent and thereis a dearth of suitable children's books. Over 98% of the books and journals used in the country are ordered from overseas. This makes books very expensive, and the lack of foreign exchange and unpaid bills limit the range of books offered by the very few bookshops in the country. Book-sellers have to go through a long and tedious process to get consignment of Educational books imported duty free. The lack of foreign exchange and unpaid bills also affect libraries in the country because the vast majority of the books in the libraries are ordered from overseas publishers who cannot afford to have huge sums of money owing them for considerable long periods. Shortage

of funds and unavailability of foreign exchange have had a devastating impact on the Board's Library services in the entire country. A reader has a very slim chance of finding a fairly recent, publication in any of the Board's Libraries.

However, thanks to the Ranfurly Library Service of Great Britain; we are now able to provide our readers with some of the recent fiction published in the United Kingdom in paperback and sometimes in hardback. Lack of resources, books, adequate buildings, staff, transport, basic library equipment to carry out the libraries's appointed tasks have resulted in shallow service. Professor Saunders in his report on an Advisory visit to Sierra Leone 15th - 30th March 1974 stated that: "It is clear to me that Sierra Leone Libraries are so starved of books, trained staff and adequate accommodation that they are perilously near breaking point; in particular is this true of the school libraries and the up-country sector of the public library service..."

In his comments on the Public Library Service he stated that "The great and urgent need for public library services, particularly up-country is being severely handicapped by lack of resources; and not least, resources of staff. Staff members I spoke to seemed very keen and highly motivated, but opportunities for training seem to be almost completely lacking. Even at the present level of operation there is clearly need for training quite a significant number of middle-level staff; when resources are made available to give the nation the public library service it needs and deserves the demand for middle-level training should become very substantial indeed." There has also been a high turnover among the professional staff a number of whom have taken up appointment in other establishments where the salaries are more attractive.

Sierra Leone still needs many more professional librarians in the public library service, the schools, the Government Ministries and the Teacher Training Colleges. It is at the moment impossible to have professional librarians in the schools which are having to make do with library assistants or library attendants who are sometimes styled

librarians but who like the junior sub-professional staff in the public library service who are styled librarians-in-charge, are burdened with duties beyond their competence.

Because of the present dearth of professional librarians in the public library service of the Sierra Leone Library Board, some vital service points are manned by non-professionals and at the same time because of an equal lack of sufficient number of experienced and properly trained support staff, even the few professionals cannot be used economically and are sometimes required to perform duties which do not call for high-level professional skills.

Given the necessary resources of finance, staff, buildings, and books, libraries and librarianship should make an important contribution to the Educational, economic and cultural life of Sierra Leone. The problems however remain and much as the librarians in Sierra Leone are conscious of these problems and are working through their individual institutions and jointly through the Sierra Leone Library Association to improve the situation. As Lester Asheim so rightly stated in his book Librarianship in the Developing Countries "It is the Ministers of Education, the Chancellors of Universities, and the directors of the budget who will determine in what direction libraries will go and how much support they will receive. Until they understand the function of the library as an educational institution, until they recognize that organised information is a national resource, until they accept librarianship as a profession essential to the nation's welfare most of our effort will be wasted."

As far as national library development in the developing countries is concerned I think Dr. Sam Milsson, Director of the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Studies, SOLNA, Sweden (IFIAS) aptly summed up the situation when he stated that "One of the most important lessons from big international conferences during the seventies has been that global problems do not necessarily imply global solutions. While interdependence of all humans and ecosystems makes it imperative

to think globally, in practice each social group must solve its problems locally, even if outside help is needed." This is a lesson still to be learnt as far as National Library development in Sierra Leone during the 1980's is concerned.

The problem in many developing countries as far as Library development is concerned is the absence of the political will. Librarians in Africa have to depend upon the interest and commitment of their respective governments for funds for the provision of Library services, and in many instances on external aid as well. But we cannot go on depending upon external aid. As T.M. Yesufu has so rightly stated:

"International aid has been useful and will continue to be needed... Fellowships and scholarships are useful in building up local expertise, but more emphasis should be given to developing and using local training facilities if necessary on regional basis.

Indeed there tends to be too great a reliance on foreign aid and loans, and too little regional cooperation...In the final analysis however, aid should be seen and given for what it is or should be: namely, assistance to fill gaps and promote ultimate self-reliance. It is not and should never be a substitute for self-help."

Gloria Dillsworth
August 1984.